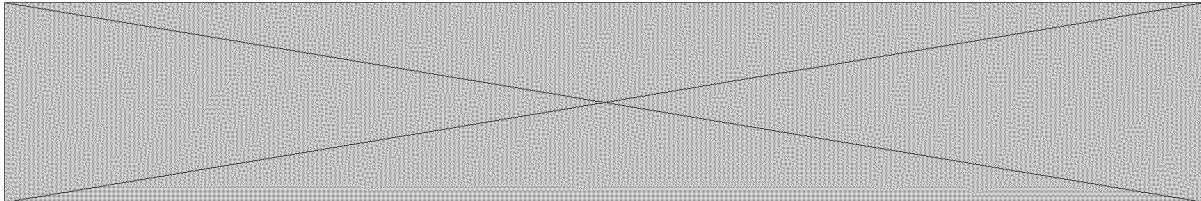


**To:** Guy, Kerry[Guy.Kerry@epa.gov]  
**From:** ASCE Government Relations  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 4:39:51 PM  
**Subject:** State Legislators Tell Their Peers it is Possible to Raise Gas Tax

(If this message is not displaying properly, [click here](#) to view in your browser.)



#### NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM ASCE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

August 14, 2015

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##### **State Legislators Tell Their Peers it is Possible to Raise Gas Tax; Give Them Guidance on How to Do It**

Transportation funding remains a hot topic for state lawmakers. Last week's annual National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit featured a "deep-dive" session entitled "Filling Up the Tank: Funding Transportation," which provided legislators a forum to discuss developing sound transportation plans in their states that create sustainable revenue, prepare for the future and meet immediate needs. Whether it's Congress, a county council or a state legislature, there is plenty to be learned from states that have addressed the infrastructure funding crisis. To read more [click here](#).

##### **Congress Weighs-In On Global Road Safety**

Before leaving D.C. for the Congressional August recess, members of both [the House](#) and [Senate](#) sent letters to the World Bank urging a stronger bank lending policy focused on improving global road safety. The World Bank plays a preeminent role in financing road construction in developing countries and therefore is in a unique position to have tremendous influence and guide improvements in road safety. To read more [click here](#).

##### **Greg Nadeau Confirmed as FHWA Administrator**

On August 11, 2015, Greg Nadeau was [sworn-in](#) as the 19th administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. The swearing-in followed full U.S. Senate confirmation of Mr. Nadeau for FHWA Administrator

on August 5. Nadeau has been at FHWA since 2009, previously serving as Deputy Administrator. Prior to that he served as Maine's Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning and Communications from 2003-2009. [ASCE endorsed](#) Mr. Nadeau's nomination for the top FHWA post and looks forward to continuing our good working relationship with Mr. Nadeau into the future.

#### **Talk to Your U.S. House Members Over August Break**

Members of Congress are home for the month of August, which means that now is the perfect time to meet with them and urge speedy action on a federal highway & transit bill. The Senate did their part and passed a long-term bill last week. Now it's time for the House to act. Please urge your Representative to support action on a multi-year transportation bill by the October 29th deadline, and ask them how they would prefer to fund transportation. They can't hear from you often enough. You can [write](#) your House member or [call](#) their office to remind them how important it is to #FixTheTrustFund.

#### **Apply By August 21 to Become a State Advocacy Captain**

The State Advocacy Captains program is seeking advocates for its fall training class. This new program which launched earlier this year, held its first training in June and is now looking for additional active ASCE advocates. These advocates will serve to strengthen the state government relations program by working with ASCE staff to support Section and Branch efforts at the state capitol. The captain will be provided a job description and a formal feedback process to create a tight information loop between the Captains and ASCE lobbying and grassroots staff in the State Government Relations department. ASCE will also give participants plenty of training and support throughout the year. Please note that there is limited space in this program, and State Advocacy Captains will be chosen through a competitive application process. If you, or someone you know, may be good in this role, please [complete the brief application](#) by August 21. Selections will be made by August 31. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [gowwash@asce.org](mailto:gowwash@asce.org).

#### **Download New App to Take Action on Infrastructure Issues**

ASCE's new Save America's Infrastructure App for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) lets you take action on infrastructure issues at the state and national level. Help save America's roads, water pipes, airports, and more by telling your lawmakers to get to work in the Action Center. The app will also remind you when it is most important for Congress or your state legislature to hear from you and keep you updated with news. Available for both [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, the app will continue to provide easy reference to the 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure grades and state facts along with these new advocacy features.

#### **Get Media Savvy: Apply for PR University for Your Section or Branch**

Public Relations University offers a day-long, interactive workshop for sections and branches. The free training is an introduction to public relations and working with the media. The session prepares ASCE members to successfully promote the profession to the media by covering topics including public affairs, the importance of messaging, how to do a media interview, and the principles of communication. To find out more information or apply for a PR University, contact [Becky Moylan](#).

#### **Infrastructure in the News**

Each week "Infrastructure in the News" presents news stories that highlight topics important to ASCE. As ASCE advocates for infrastructure investment, the media's coverage of infrastructure is a valuable tool. The following stories demonstrate what the media report about infrastructure.

Opinion letter by Sam Hartpence: Feds are leaving our roads in a lurch

*Casper Star Tribune*

The American Society of Civil Engineers Failure to Act economic study found that right now every family's budget is losing out on \$1,060 of disposable income because of our aging roads and bridges.

After the Flood, Before the Flood: Will we have time to recover from ...

*Austin Chronicle*

The American Society of Civil Engineers released an aggressive report last year on the state of our preparedness for disaster. They warn that the U.S. hasn't ...

John Caperilla: Congress leaves for summer vacation without a plan ...

*Allentown Morning Call*

Opinion By ASCE Member John Caperilla

Poor road conditions and time wasted sitting in traffic are costing each of us money. The American Society of Civil Engineers' Failure to Act economic study finds ...

Organizations that can use engineering and design expertise and support.

*Civil + Structural Engineer*

ASCE Disaster Assistance Volunteer Program is an effort by the American Society of Civil Engineers' Committee on Critical Infrastructure

### **Use the Report Card in Your Talks and Presentations**

We hope every ASCE member will be able to use the Report Card to get others engaged in the conversation around our nation's infrastructure. The Report Card Outreach Toolkit includes presentations, state fact sheets, and other materials to help spread the message:

- PowerPoint slides
- Videos
- Executive Summary

If you need printed materials for a conference or meeting, please let us know! We have several information pieces that we can send you. Don't see something you need? Want more information? Just email [reportcard@asce.org](mailto:reportcard@asce.org).

### **State Legislative Updates**

Reminder: Use ASCE's Bill Tracking Service to Monitor State Legislation!

Ten state legislatures are currently in session, and many are discussing issues of concern to ASCE including infrastructure investment and licensing laws. While forty states are adjourned.

ASCE's State Government Relations Staff is currently tracking 1248 bills and 235 regulatory proposals. You can track legislation in your state by using ASCE's online bill tracking service:

[www.asce.org/multistate](http://www.asce.org/multistate)

Just log in with your ASCE username and password to see legislation pending in your state!

## **STATE NEWS**

### **California**

*With road repairs on California's to do list, local officials push for new funds*

California cities and counties on Monday demanded a cut of any new revenue generated by the state for road maintenance. In preparation for a special legislative session on transportation, state lawmakers have proposed various tax and fee hikes to help produce \$6 billion a year to pay for highway and bridge maintenance. On Monday, local government officials, along with allies in labor and business, outlined a plan by which the state, cities and counties could share that revenue.

Read More: [The Los Angeles Times](#) 8/10/2015

### **Colorado**

*EPA Evaluates Impact Of Wastewater Spill In Colorado*

An estimated 3 million gallons of orange fluid that spilled from the Gold King Mine in Colorado has traveled from the Animas River in Colorado to the San Juan River in New Mexico. Mining wastewater does seep into streams in southwestern Colorado where there are abandoned mines. But the Durango community hasn't seen an event of this scale in recent memory. On Sunday, the city in La Plata County made a disaster declaration. Right now there are many questions and there are few answers.

Read More: [NPR](#) 8/10/2015

### **Hawaii**

*Funds for water infrastructure improvements go unspent*

Hawaii is at risk of losing federal water infrastructure improvement funds if the state doesn't start lending the money to counties more efficiently. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reports the state projects repair costs over the next 20 years at about \$1 billion, while about \$100 million in federally matched funds went unspent by the end of last year. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 water division director Michael Montgomery said the state needs to either "get it together" or risk losing funds to other states.

Read More: [Hawaii News Now](#) 8/10/2015

### **Indiana**

*Pence: Reserves could be used to shore up roads*

Gov. Mike Pence is considering dipping into the state's \$2.14 billion in reserves in what he described as a near-term solution to offer funding for infrastructure improvements. Pence's comments on Wednesday follow a bridge closure on I-65 in Lafayette last week that's forced motorists to take a detour off the busy highway. Pence said his administration is looking at some options during the upcoming legislative session that begins in January to free up resources to invest in infrastructure. However, Pence said no decisions have been made, including how much of the state's reserves could go toward roads.

Read More: [Indianapolis Star](#) 8/12/2015

### **Iowa**

*Road, bridge upgrades planned as gas tax revenue is realized*

An average of 5,400 vehicles a day cross a 66-year-old bridge on Highway 1 south of Iowa City that is classified as functionally obsolete. While structurally sound, the span over Old Man's Creek is susceptible to damage during flooding and is just 26 feet wide — 18 feet narrower than what's required under modern design standards. The Highway 1 bridge, which is about 1.5 miles south of county road F52, is among the many pieces of Iowa's outdated infrastructure set to be upgraded in the coming years after the passage of a 10-cent fuel tax increase in February by the state legislature.

Read More: [Iowa Press-Citizen](#) 8/7/2015

### **Louisiana**

*Louisiana's next governor should support raising the gas tax*

The next governor of Louisiana should support raising the state's gas tax by 10 cents per gallon to fund repairs to the state's decaying transportation infrastructure, the Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association said Monday. The 10-cent increase would bring the state closer to the national average of 30.5 cents per gallon, association president Ken Perret said. The 20 cents per gallon helps repay bonds for large transportation projects and generates as much as \$450 million a year that is used to improve infrastructure.

Read More: [The Times-Picayune](#) 8/10/2015

### **Nebraska**

*Plan boosts local roads funding by \$3 million, Ricketts says*

The state of Nebraska will pay an extra 10 cents on the dollar for federal roads funds it buys from local governments, injecting another \$3 million into the budgets of counties and cities across the state next year, Gov. Pete Ricketts said Tuesday. The change affects Nebraska's federal buyback program for roads funding, created under a 2011 bill sponsored by then state Sen. Deb Fischer. Since the

program started in 2013, local governments have let the state Department of Roads keep millions of dollars in federal aid in exchange for about \$29.7 million in state funding that has fewer strings attached.

Read More: [Lincoln Star-Journal](#) 8/11/2015

#### **Nevada**

*Nevada eyes Oregon program to tax motorists by the mile*  
Nevada transportation leaders will be keeping a close watch on OReGO, a pilot program being undertaken by the Oregon Department of Transportation for motorists to pay for road and highway improvements by the mile instead of through a gasoline tax. Nevada legislators have looked at the issue and commissioned a report from researchers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno. One of the key findings was that a regional policy, not a state policy, would be important to implement because our state sees so much tourist traffic on its roads.

Read More: [Nevada Register-Journal](#) 8/9/2015

#### **New Jersey**

*Fund the TTF now, say NJ transportation experts*  
There has been more than enough talk about finding a revenue source for New Jersey's soon-to-be bankrupt Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), and two transportation and business experts testified Monday that they believe now is the time to get something done. TTF is the pot of money the state taps into to fund highway, bridge and tunnel projects. It is on pace to run out of money at midnight on June 30, 2016, unless a revenue source is identified before then.

Read More: [NJ 101.5FM](#) 8/11/2015

#### **Oklahoma**

*Oklahoma Department of Transportation seeks federal funds for flood damage*

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has requested \$28 million in emergency relief funds from the Federal Highway Administration to repair and replace roads and bridges damaged by this year's floods. So far, federal officials have approved \$16.5 million in emergency relief, with other projects still under consideration, said Mike Patterson, executive director of the Transportation Department.

Federal emergency relief funds can be tapped to pay for 100 percent of the costs of repairing or replacing qualifying bridges and roads that are part of the state and federal highway systems and major county arterial roads that have been damaged by natural disasters, Patterson said.

Read More: [The Oklahoman](#) 8/12/2015

#### **Oregon**

*Oregon's Pay-By-The-Mile Program Attracts Fuel-Thirsty Cars*

Oregon's new pay-by-the-mile program called OReGO is

one month along. The idea is to re-capture tax revenue from people who drive a lot but don't have to buy much gas. But it may work out differently. The way it works is a little device tracks your miles and for each of those miles, you pay 1.5 cents. It also tracks the amount of gas you put in your car, and then deducts the gas tax you paid from your total bill. That means if you have a fuel-efficient car, it'll cost you more to pay by the mile instead. The program has a mileage-based tier system to try to even that out a little.

Read More: [Spokane Public Radio](#) 8/11/2015

### **Pennsylvania**

#### *Talking pipelines on WITF's Smart Talk*

An estimated 30,000 new miles of pipeline will be built in Pennsylvania to accommodate the shale gas boom, according to the Wolf Administration. Some of these lines will be large, high pressure pipes that travel across state lines and are regulated by the federal government. But some are much smaller, carrying gas from the wellhead to larger lines that feed the interstate system. In rural areas, these lines are not regulated. And although detailed locations of all above ground infrastructure is available to the public at their fingertips, that underground system remains hidden.

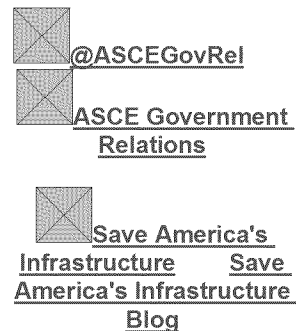
Read More: [StateImpact](#) 8/11/2015

### **Tennessee**

#### *TN Senate transportation chairman calls for repayment of \$280 million in road funds*

Tennessee Senate Transportation Chairman Jim Tracy today called for repayment of \$280 million in state highway funds he says were "raided" between 2001 and 2008. The Shelbyville Republican's call comes with lawmakers expected to consider legislation next year to raise new funds through taxes and/or fees for road construction and repair. "We have a covenant with our citizens that the gas tax charged by the state at the pump is dedicated to transportation-related purposes and not something totally unrelated," Tracy said in a news release. He said he would submit an appropriations amendment next year to the state budget seeking repayment.

Read More: [Chattanooga](#) 8/10/2015



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